



Edgewood Area - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5424

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

# M48 Chemical-Biological Aircraft Mask

**Description:** The M48 Chemical-Biological Aircraft Mask was developed for the AH-64 Apache helicopter aviators. It provides face, eye, and respiratory protection against chemical-biological agents and radioactive particles. The M48 was designed for compatibility with the Integrated Helmet and Display Sighting System and the Optical Relay Tube, subsystems of the Apache. The M48 mask has a lightweight motor blower that is mounted on the user during dismounted operations and is mounted to the airframe during flight operations. The motor blower provides filtered, breathable air that keeps the head cool and prevents the eye lenses from fogging. While wearing the M48 mask, crewmembers can perform their mission in an NBC environment inside or outside of the aircraft.



The M48 mask has a form-fitting facepiece with lenses mounted close to the eyes; an integrally-attached CB hood and skull-type suspension system; an inhalation air distribution assembly for regulating the flow of air to the facepiece and hood; a valve assembly that maintains overpressure in the mask and hood; an electronic microphone; and a portable battery-powered motor blower filter assembly. The M48 is a product improvement of the M43 mask, which is currently used by the Apache crew. This product improvement incorporated user-requested features (lighter weight blower for dismounted operations, superior latching mechanism during aircraft mounting, and a standard issue battery capable of operating continuously for 8 hours). The M48 will replace the M43 Type I mask and will only be worn by Apache Helicopter Aviators.

## Key Features:

- Improved Durability Blower
- Standard U.S. Army Battery
- Improved NBC survivability
- Enhanced Emergency Egress Capability over current system
- 69% Weight Reduction over the currently-fielded motor blower with battery

**Key Requirement:** CB protection for Apache Aircrew and Flight Support Personnel.

**Type Classified Standard A:** 19 Jun 96

**Basis of Issue:** One-for-one replacement of M43 Type I masks issued to aircrew members.

**Projected Production Deliveries Start:** 4QFY02

**Unit Price:** \$1,800



For additional information, please contact Program Director-Respiratory Protection, ATTN: AMSSB-PM-RNN-P, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424. The Program Director can also be contacted by E-mail ([pd.respiratory@sbccom.apgea.army.mil](mailto:pd.respiratory@sbccom.apgea.army.mil)), by telephone at (410) 436-1776 or DSN 584-1776, or by fax to (410) 436-4184.